

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the present application, as claims 21-38 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112***

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for a minor informality. The informality noted by the Examiner has been corrected by the amendment made herein. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

***Claim rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 1 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Applicant's "Description of the Prior Art" (hereinafter APA) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0069317 to Chow. Claims 5, 8, 16, 18, 20, 23, 26, 34, 36, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over APA in view of Lasker in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,539 to Funaba.

Independent claim 1 recites, in part:

wherein said control device comprises:

a first buffer circuit for receiving a signal from one input/output end of the ring bus;  
a second buffer circuit for sending a signal to one input/output end of the ring bus;

a third buffer circuit for receiving a signal from the other input/output end of the ring bus; and

a fourth buffer circuit for sending a signal to the other input/output end of the ring bus.

Applicant submits none of the applied references teaches or suggests the control device comprising the first, second, third and fourth buffer circuits, as claimed. Thus, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all of the required features of the claimed invention.

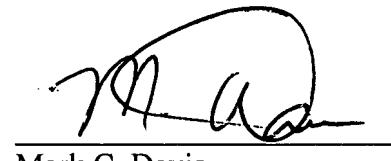
Accordingly, Applicant submits independent claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record for at least these reasons. Similarly, Applicant submits independent claims 2 and 5 are patentable over the prior art of record for analogous reasons. Further, Applicant submits dependent claims 3, 4 and 6-20 are patentable over the prior art of record, at least by virtue of their respective dependency on independent claims 1, 2 and 5.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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